

IESO Engagement

From: Despina Melohe
Sent: June 18, 2021 12:41 AM
To: IESO Engagement
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Subject: Feedback: Gas Phase-Out Impact Assessment

Hello,

I am very concerned that we are considering replacing coal plants with natural gas. This is not the best choice for our children and future generations. We have to dismantle fossil fuel infrastructure and industry and move towards renewables, as well as reduce our energy consumption.

It's clear on all counts that phasing out gas and transitioning to renewable energy would have multiple short and long-term benefits to the health and well-being of Ontarians; ramping up gas-plant production would have the opposite effect. IESO's assessment must consider the social and environmental costs and benefits along with the immediate and long-term costs in terms of dollars and cents for producers and consumers.

A study undertaken by the Pembina Institute looked at whether clean energy solutions can deliver a reliable supply of electricity in an affordable way, focusing on Alberta but using modelling and examples from across Canada and the US. The study showed that "the clean portfolios provide the same services as the gas plant at a lower cost over the lifetime of the energy source" and "non-emitting renewable energy portfolios (such as wind, solar, battery energy storage) can reduce consumer costs along with climate and health impacts while delivering the same or greater services as gas plants."

Transmission upgrades along existing corridors between Quebec and Ontario would significantly increase the amount of hydro power Ontario could import. While these upgrades could cost upwards of \$1.44 B, these costs are relatively low compared to \$25.8 B to rebuild Ontario's 10 aging nuclear reactors or the \$3 B Ontario recently spent on purchasing gas plants.

Along with air and water pollution, GHG emissions hasten climate change, leading to more frequent dangerous heat events, more extreme weather events such as flooding and drought which threaten food and housing security, and above all, irreversible damage to the environment. As the International Institute for Sustainable Development has made clear, gas expansion is inconsistent with the Paris Agreement goals of pursuing all efforts to keep warming to 1.5C.

Please do not put future generations in jeopardy. We need to act now to combat climate change. Increasing fossil fuel production is not the way to go.

Sincerely,

Despina Melohe

